

Animal Bites

Frequently Asked Questions

Washington Ozaukee Public Health Department

I just got bit by an animal that I think has rabies. What should I do?

- Animal bite wounds should be washed immediately and thoroughly with soap and water. A health care provider should be promptly consulted about the possible need for antibiotic treatment and tetanus vaccination.

Who should I call if I am bit by an animal?

- Bite reports can be made to the local health department or to local law enforcement.
 - Washington Ozaukee Public Health Department
 - West Bend Office: 262-335-4462
 - Port Washington Office: 262-238-8170
 - Washington County Sheriff's Department: 262-335-4378
 - Ozaukee County Sheriff's Department: 262-284-7172

Should I try and catch the animal?

- The biting animal should be captured **if it is safe to do so**, because of the possibility of rabies virus transmission. In the case of an owned domestic animal, information on the owner and location of the animal should be obtained.
- **DO NOT DESTROY OR RELEASE AN ANIMAL THAT HAS BITTEN A PERSON** until one consults with a public health official to determine the need for observation or testing of the animal.

I think my dog got bit by an animal (skunk/raccoon), what should I do?

- Notify your veterinary clinic of the possibility of rabies exposure to your animal. Observation for rabies can be done by licensed veterinary doctors.